Tamworth 4WD Club Newsletter - MAY 2025

Club Meetings - 2nd Monday each month. 6:30pm at St Johns Hall. 72 Napier Street, Tamworth. (Diagonally opposite Anzac Park).

Last meeting : Mon 12th May 2024. 6:30pm.

Next meeting : Mon 9th June 2024. 6:30pm.

Facebook : Tamworth 4wd Club

Facebook : Tamworth 4wd Club (Financial Members)

tam4wdclub@hotmail.com

Tamworth 4wd Club

Tamworth 4wd Club is a family orientated club. We cater for family participation in recreational four wheel driving and camping trips into bushland areas of the great natural beauty and attraction. Club trips can be one day or weekend drives into the state forests and national parks of the local area. Trips of longer duration to various parts of Australia (Simpson Desert, Fraser Island, Cape York, Victorian High Country) are planned annually and in advance. The choice of trips you take is entirely yours, from easy scenic trips to beautiful areas of near inaccessible terrain. Other clubs activities include social outings, bush camping, bush walking, fishing, driver training days, Christmas-in-July social weekend, demonstrations and inter-club activities.

2025-2026 Committee

President	- Col Middleton	e: president.tam4wdclub@gmail.com
Vice President	- Dave Maunder	
Secretary	- Katrina Burton	e: secretary.tam4wdclub@gmail.com
Treasurer	- Leanne Middleton	e: treasurer.tam4wdclub@gmail.com
Association Delegate	- Dave Maunder	e: delegate.tam4wdclub@gmail.com
Publicity Officer	- Katrina / Adrian	
Equipment Officer	- Paul Ellison	
Newsletter Editor	- Dave Maunder	
Public Officer	- Graeme Hodge	
Driver Awareness Officers	- Graeme Hodge, Leanne Middleton, Dave Maunder	
Trip Advisors	- Graeme Hodge, Leanne Middleton, Paul Ellison, Dave Maunder	

BANK DETAILS
Tamworth 4WD Club
BSB 032-621
Account Number 895405

E-mail : tam4wdclub@hotmail.com
Mailing address: Tamworth 4wd Club,
30 Manilla Road, Oxley Vale, Tamworth 2340.

Tamworth 4wd Club

Editors Dribblings

Hi Everyone,
Annual membership fee's are now due for those that have not yet renewed.

AGM was had and all is done & dusted for another year. Congratulations to everyone for upholding their same positions again. See later in the newsletter.

We had a terrific time tripping around at Barrington Tops, and the social weekend over the Anzac Weekend was brilliant. Thanks to those for coming along and supporting the clubs trips and events.

Six of us are going to the Association meeting this coming weekend, and from there, are going to head out to Sofala and Hill End for a bit of a looksey.

Christmas in July social fun weekend is on again this year at Wallabadah. Would be great to see some old faces again—fingers crossed to it not raining over that weekend (Last weekend in July). Typical big cookup Saturday night around a huge bonfire. Fun & games and social weekend. Night drive - with a brand new track never to be seen by anyone. Only driven for the first time last weekend (neighbour's place). All details next newsletter after discussion at next months meeting. RSVP for Saturday night dinner will be around the 20th July. About $18 per adult, $10 for kids.

Please fill out this survey : https://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/camping It will help attempt to remove the current booking fee's with National Parks.

Cover Photo : newly created hide-away camp spot near our lookout at Wallabadah. Camp spot created on the weekend of 10th May. 15m to 20m to the right is a view looking out over Quirindi.

Keep the shiney side up.

Meeting started at 6:35pm. Six members present. Chair: Colin
Apologies: Paul & Mel, Chrissy, Katrina, Jodie.

Previous minutes true and correct: Graeme / Rick.

Business Arising
-TJM Open Day: no further news, other than will go ahead.
-Year Raffle: Further discussions and further ideas to be had.
-Christmas in July raffles. One raffle. Can sell tickets for year long raffle there.
-Leanne to approach ARB & TJM for possibility of raffle donation for Christmas in July.
-Discussion on previous discussed pricing of shirts, caps, clothing.
Notice to everyone: Graeme will purchase one bucket hat.

Financials
Working Account : $473.32
Reserve account : $3097.20
Four memberships paid.

Correspondence in
Membership query from Jesse near Walcha. Advised that I would send out current newsletter.

Correspondence out
Club newsletters and association newsletter.

General business
-Membership fee's due before July. Required to be paid prior to AGM in order to vote.

-CVS discussion. Advised that a blurb was put together and placed on to Tamworth's 'who/what/when' 50,000 person FB site, Clubs site and Tamworth 4wd enthusiasts FB pages. In order to try to attract to get members.

-Radio station community announcement ads in an attempt to get members. An initial typescript has been prepared and needed club meeting approval.
92.9FM and 88.9FM. Dave to do. See ad blurb elsewhere.

-Association meeting this weekend in Mudgee. Six members attending.

- National Parks tracks closure state government enquiry. See elsewhere in newsletter.
- Survey/feedback link for National Parks new tier level camping fee's. Abolish online booking. Blurb was put together for this and placed on to FB, including '4wd TV' which has a few hundred thousand followers. Was shared! About three reactions—extremely poor!

Meeting closed : 7:15pm.. No pizza was harmed.

2025 Annual General Meeting.—Tamworth 4wd Club

Meeting started at 7:20pm. Six members present. Chair: Colin
Apologies: Paul & Mel, Chrissy, Katrina, Jodie.

Previous minutes true and correct: No minutes provided.

Presidents Report
-Report, see overpage.

Treasurer:
-Annual association fee should arrive in the next month or so from Association.
-2024-2025 was $308.00 for Tamworth 4wd Club.

General business
-Colin enquired what does our Association insurance cover. Dave: Will find previous correspondence and add to newsletter. Essentially think of it as an equivalent of a CTP to some degree. Covers for damage to property owners, (and other) whilst the club is on trips, be it on Council land, Crown land, private land.

-Graeme motioned for all positions to be made vacant.
-Motion put forward that all positions remain the same—Graeme.
-Some initial discussion on current held positions was had. Agreeance came to play.
-Motion was seconded by Leanne Middleton. Thirded by Rick Burton.
-Carried unanimously that all positions stayed the same. All were in agreeance.
No changes made to any positions within the club for the 2025-2026 period.

2025-2026 positions:

President	: Colin Middleton
Vice President	: Dave Maunder
Secretary	: Katrina Burton
Treasurer	: Leanne Middleton
Association Delegate	: Dave Maunder
Publicity Officer	: Katrina Burton
Equipment Officer	: Paul Ellison
Newsletter editor	: Dave Maunder (and does a poor job of it)
Public Officer	: Graeme Hodge
Driver awareness Officers:	Graeme Hodge, Leanne Middleton, Dave Maunder
Trip advisors	: Graeme Hodge, Leanne Middleton, Paul Ellison, Dave Maunder

Fee's to remain at $60.00 per family per year.

AGM ended: 7:29.

EVENTS, TRIPS & TRIP IDEAS

17-19 May 2025.
Association mid year meeting at Mudgee, held at the Mudgee showgrounds. Camp oven cook off competition Saturday afternoon with Saturday night Trivia night. $34 for non-powered site, includes nibblies/cuppa and hot showers for the weekend. Tickets from https://benefits.4wdnow.com/
Six of us are booked to go. I had a great time at the same event held in Coolah in 2019.

19-23 May 2025. Sofala, Hill end and Williamstown!
Leaving Mudgee on Monday 19th, heading for Sofala and Hill end; looking at museums and the relics of the past. Meet us anywhere there.
Then, around Wednesday (depending), moving on over to the newly camp grounds created over near Williamstown by current and past members. The club was invited, so we have to go check it out!

Gloucester to Werrikimbe via back roads – Col.
Discussions were had surrounding this trip at this months meeting.
A date is finally going to be set within the next meeting or two.

25-27 July. Christmas-in-July at Wallabadah.
Come along to our annual event. Three course feed, huge bonfire, fun, games, hill climb, funkhana, creek crossings, 4wd see-saw, tug-a-war. Raffles & prizes. On-site ammenties with now a bigger loo for the ladies. Shower block (bring your own hot water and shower). Camp shelter, camping grounds.

Attunga Forest recky day trip. (Paul) To be announced as a day outing.
Probably sooner than later. Announcement may be on the Facebook group.

Family Fun Day Weekend - Richard.
A family fun day weekend (invite out to the public) to entice potential new club members. Three legged races for kids, novelty course. Billy boiling competition from nix, Cook off comp and/or camp oven night.

Coffs Harbour Trip – Paul. Date to be set
Mountains and Pebbly Beach.

Taylors Arm – Paul. Date to be set.

NSW & ACT Association Club Insurance. AON - Insurance FAQs. The facts.

1. What activities should I advise 4WD NSW/ACT of?
All activities your organisation and members carry out, including fundraising, shows, events.

2. What about new activities or a change in activities?
These should be advised to 4WD NSW/ACT to advise Aon.

3. What does the Public Liability policy cover me for?
The policy covers all sums for which you become legally liable to pay to third parties as compensation for personal injury and/ or property damage caused by an occurrence in connection with your organisation/member activities. The policy should cover all activities of the organisation/members including those of volunteers.

4. What does Protector/Association Liability policy cover me for?
Cover for your organisation's directors, officers and bearers for legal obligations arising from their duties. It also protects your organisation against alleged wrongful acts and extends to employment practices liability and fidelity.

5. Why do we need Protector/Association Liability policy?
A director, officer or bearer of your NFP in carrying out their normal duties, may receive an allegation of wrongdoing. So too, may paid staff or volunteers as part of the daily running of the organisation, for example, when giving advice via the phone, your website or marketing material. That's why our Protector/Association Liability will help cover the organisation and the individual.

6. What does Volunteer Personal Accident cover me for?
Covers all club volunteers, members and their registered visitors; along with all associated office bearers and officials of the Policyholder for accidental injury or death whilst carrying out club sanctioned activities as per policy terms and conditions.

7. In the event of a claim, can I admit liability?
No matter how minor an accident, in the event of a claim or incident that may lead to a claim no liability should be admitted. It is most important that no admission of liability, either verbally or in writing, be made as this constitutes a breach of policy conditions and may prejudice acceptance of the claim or the claim settlement.

8. Do you require a list of all our volunteers/members?
4WD NSW/ACT requires a list of club names and total number of members involved with the organisation in a year.

9. What if our circumstances change from those originally declared?
If you merge with or takeover an organisation, or change your activities, i.e. organise an event, add additional activities, etc, you must advise 4WD NSW/ACT to advise Aon to ensure cover is extended to cover these activities.

10. We are fully insured, why do we need risk management?
Insurance is only one way to manage the risks facing an organisation. It may not be the best way of managing a risk because:
a. it may cost much more than other ways of controlling risk.
b. it does not achieve the preferred outcome (preventing harm), it only compensates after the event/injury.
c. it may not cover all risks and may be capped to a ceiling.
d. Insurance policies have exclusions which risk management needs to factor in.

11. Why do volunteers/members need to be part of our risk management plan?
A 4WD group is responsible for the actions of its volunteers/members and paid staff. Inappropriate volunteer behaviour can seriously harm and prevent a 4WD organisation from achieving its mission. Volunteers/members, like employees, are a valuable resource to your organisation and should be part of any risk management system. Including volunteers/members in your risk management system will help protect both your organisation and your volunteers/members. There are also various volunteer protection Acts that do not lessen the need for appropriate risk management strategies. Several Laws such as work health safety and occupational health and safety impose requirements for training both staff and volunteers.

12. What are some common mistakes in risk management plans?
a. they are formally prepared, but never implemented or regularly revised.
b. they cover the risk that are easy to treat and leave the difficult risks untreated.
c. they rely too heavily on insurance as a strategy.
d. they assume the organisation's insurance covers risks that it does not.
e. the risk management plan is not amended when insurance policies alter or new activities begin.

13. Wouldn't it be easier just to copy another organisation's risk management plan?
4WD organisations are diverse, even within the same sector. A risk management plan will be quite different even for similar organisations because of variables such as size, organisational culture, property ownership and leadership. You are far more likely to identify all of the risks relating to your organisation by working through the process of planning your own risk management strategy, than by just blindly copying another organisation's work. An understanding of what risk management means and an ownership of strategy to protect and enhance the mission of your organisation are essential.

14. How are volunteers/members covered for accidental injury?
Apart from Medicare, the only other cover available is Voluntary Workers Personal Accident. These policies can be extended to cover unpaid members of organisations

If injured by third party's liability policies may then be involved where volunteers could sue for the negligent injury.

15. How do I cover one day events?
These can be an extension to your existing 4WD NSW/ACT Public Liability policy if it is a sanctioned event by 4WD NSW/ACT. If you are holding an event which involves members of the public and not just 4WD NSW/ACT members and their guests, you will need to take out additional one-off event Public Liability coverage. A one-off event declaration form is required to be completed.

16. Can I Insure Market Stalls?
These can be added to your existing policy or one-off cover provided.

17. Does our policy have an age limit?
The only policy that usually has an age limit is Voluntary Workers Personal Accident and travel policies. Your Voluntary Workers Personal Accident policies has "nil" age limitations but beware as coverage is still only for volunteers/members and the volunteers/members must be able to take direction/orders from the organisation and work independently. All policy terms and conditions still apply.

18. Are volunteers/members covered at events?
Coverage should be provided through Public Liability and Voluntary Workers Personal Accident for authorised 4WD events.

19. What insurance cover does 4WD organisations need?
As a member organisation of 4WD NSW and ACT if you have elected to take insurance cover you are automatically covered for Public Liability, Volunteer Personal Accident & Protector/Association Liability. Each organisation may require different insurances due to their risks and the activities they provide. To assist with deciding what insurances you may need, it is recommended you use our Insurance Puzzle Solver or speak to one of our brokers.

20. What are the benefits of using Aon NFP team for my insurance needs?
Aon is one of Australia's largest brokers and has been working with NFPs and charities for over 30 years. We have a team of dedicated brokers who can tailor insurances for risks commonly found in your industry.

21. How can I make a claim?
To make a claim on your policy contact 4WD NSW/ACT directly to discuss the incident so it can be notified to Aon for review.

22. When do I receive my Certificate of Currency?
You will receive your Certificate of Currency by request to 4WD NSW/ACT.

Barrington cruisey trip - Easter 2025.

Left work at thurs 4pm. 17th/april/2025

Met col & leanne at Sheba dams at 5:30pm. We were waiting for Tane—we left Sheba right on 6:15pm, about seven minutes before he had arrived. We had a great drive through to Elleston, parked up beside river at bridge at pheasants creek rd for the night at ~8pm. Tane (and his son River) in his very nice blue GU dualcab amazingly managed to find us, set up his swag. Left at 9:15am, at northern tomallo/pheasants creek / Barrington turnoff by 10am. Said our byes to Tane as he had to get back home. We continuued on down Polyfogal past Devils Ark , Kept driving east bound and came straight to woko NP by about 11:45am. Quick look, way too many people. Pumping up tyres, I blew my compressor hose. Col blew his compressor hose. backup compressor came into play. Into barrington township and filled up. At Copeland township and we dropped into the little Copeland Reserve offshoot on the left—walks with a picnic area; a very quick look. Out, up the big hill through Copeland Tops. At Cobark : a gazillion million people camping along side ten kilometers of the river. WOW!! Past Twin rivers, up the big hill. First track on left was locked but we ventured down it a little way where Col lost all brakes!! The hard line coming out of the brake master had worn through. We pulled it off and soldered & locktight metal magic it all up. Bolted back on, bled, worked like a bought one! Could have been interesting if it had blown ten minutes earlier or ten minutes later!!! (Going down hill following traffic oin the main road). We finally hit the Dilgry turn off (Eastern side) and drove down a few kms to Banksia camping spot.— immediately right beside bridge for the night at 3pm. Little night walk, sat beside fire to around 9pm-ish and then hit the hay.

Up in the morning, left Banksia at 9:30pm to Wombat RD / The cascades. 100 people there. Literally about 25 vehicles for a place that is full with about six vehicles! Over crowded big time. I went through the crossing to start on the uphill track on the other side of the Manning River. Ten metres in front was a P plater bloke waiting for his mates up ahead to go up. All young and silly; taking stock standard fourbies up a red clay, wet & slippery track that is more suited for locked 35" tyres @ 10psi track. And in front of his mates were another group apparently also stuck. I did a u-uey, came back over to the camp site where Col & Leanne were waiting for a decision from me. Off we went leaving the thousand people behind. From there we quickly stopped at The Rock, About five people on horses came out of nowhere and wandered up to the rock as well. Left and headed over to the Little Manning for a pit stop and on to the northern branch loop road that I honestly thought it would take us 15 minutes to do. An hour later we stopped for lunch at about the half way point! Three large mud holes which were no problem for us, however, the first we met a family in a Y62-too wide to go thru. He had one crack and had just turned around when we arrived. Second bog hole we met a convoy of around six P plater vehicles - this took maybe 15 or 20 minutes to clear the track.

After our bite to eat it, the return loop was in far better condition and it didn't take us long to get back to the main road. From there, we decided to try Thunderbolts Track but was closed at Thunderbolts Quarry. Did a u-ey and tried out the short cut track from the quarry to Little Manning camp ground. Half way down and we found the Penrith boys that we ran into at Barrington township the day before whilst getting fuel. They were in full swing playing and drinking and whatnot in a large mud hole. We could sense that things were going to go really bad for them, so ---- we got out of there quick as possible.

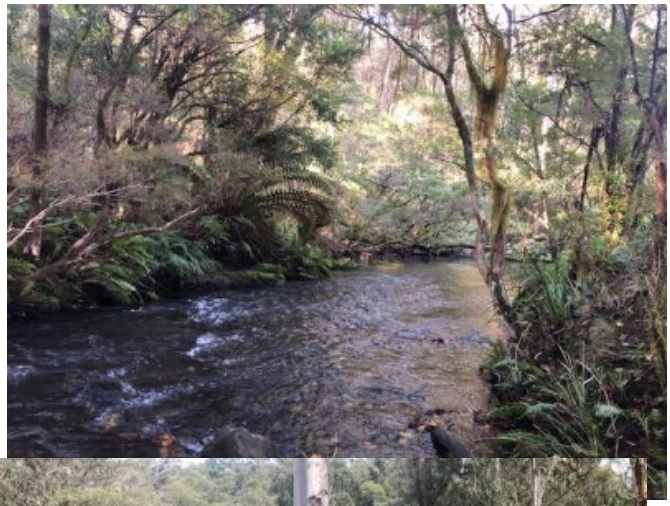
Back pass little manning camp ground and north branch loop, up to Tubrabucca and Wrights Trails. David with his 1979 map got 180 degrees around the wrong way and was heading south instead of north, even though our compasses said we were heading north. We kept going , coming across Omadale Brook Trail leading off to the right; down it (now going north!) and found a brilliant little spot on the trickling little creek. Setup camp at around 3:00pm. Laid back for a bit. Walked down the track 500m to look at the number of logs across the blocked track. Little perhaps 3m rapids/water fall on the little brook. Very pretty. Sat around the fore until 11:30pm. Up at 7am, lit the fire. 7:45am a GU wagon came flying down the opened track (we had setup 20m in on the blocked track). A German fellow with girlfriend/wife from Qld., they had no idea where they were either. We left at 9:30 and attempted to head towards Barrington Trail northern section to find the Turabucca Falls, 15m in height. Well, what a rigmarole that was. My 1979 map, as well as my 2017 Topo on laptop didn't line up at all with what we were driving and the two or three intersections we came to. And what is worse is that at times we were heading south (wrong way) towards the main Scone-Glocester forest road, but the compass was showing north. Again! The shortcut track we were heading for (Butchers Swamp trail) was closed, pulled over a National Parkes Ranger from Gloucester side— he was very nice, but couldn't really help us where we wanted to go. Continuued on and stopped at Pol Blue falls. We then took Pol Blue Ridge (just before Horse swamp camp ground) which turned out to be a nice little track in amongst the birch forest. Came out on to the main forest road, turned left. Called into Pol Blue to go to the toilets, and what'da'ya know. A young couple that we had previous met on another trip came over and said a G'day. (Sube Brumby owners, hence the connection) Leaving Pol Blue we went down Barrington Central, coming out on the Turabucca again, however, once again the maps didn't show accurately the intersections. Turned left, met a few on comers, found our Omadale track from yesterday, did a u-ey, back tracking and now heading north once again (for reals this time). Turned off on to the northern of the north section of the Barrington trail , found the first flat camp ground. Col remove his half broken and flapping front left rubber flare, whilst I went for a solid 20minute walk downstream in underlating rugged-underfoot ground trying to find these Turabucca falls. I turned around at the 20min mark and started heading back to the cars deflated in not finding them. I have now added these falls to my list of elusive Barrington waterfalls, being these and the Beean Beean Falls.
We left here heading north again, but knowing the end of Barrington trail is closed with no access through to the Tomalla road, we found Wrights Trail (boundary track) and followed it back around to the northern Tomalla-Barrington entrance. Debated about where to then head to camp, for the night and we decided upon Timor Caves. An hour later we had arrived, not too busy, and had setup. Dave went for a quick walk to find the entrances of TR2,3,4 & 17, and walked and measured very easily 70 metres inside Belfry (Number 2 cave). Sat around the fire for the rear of the evening.

Left early on Monday morning and head for home via Crawney Mountain.

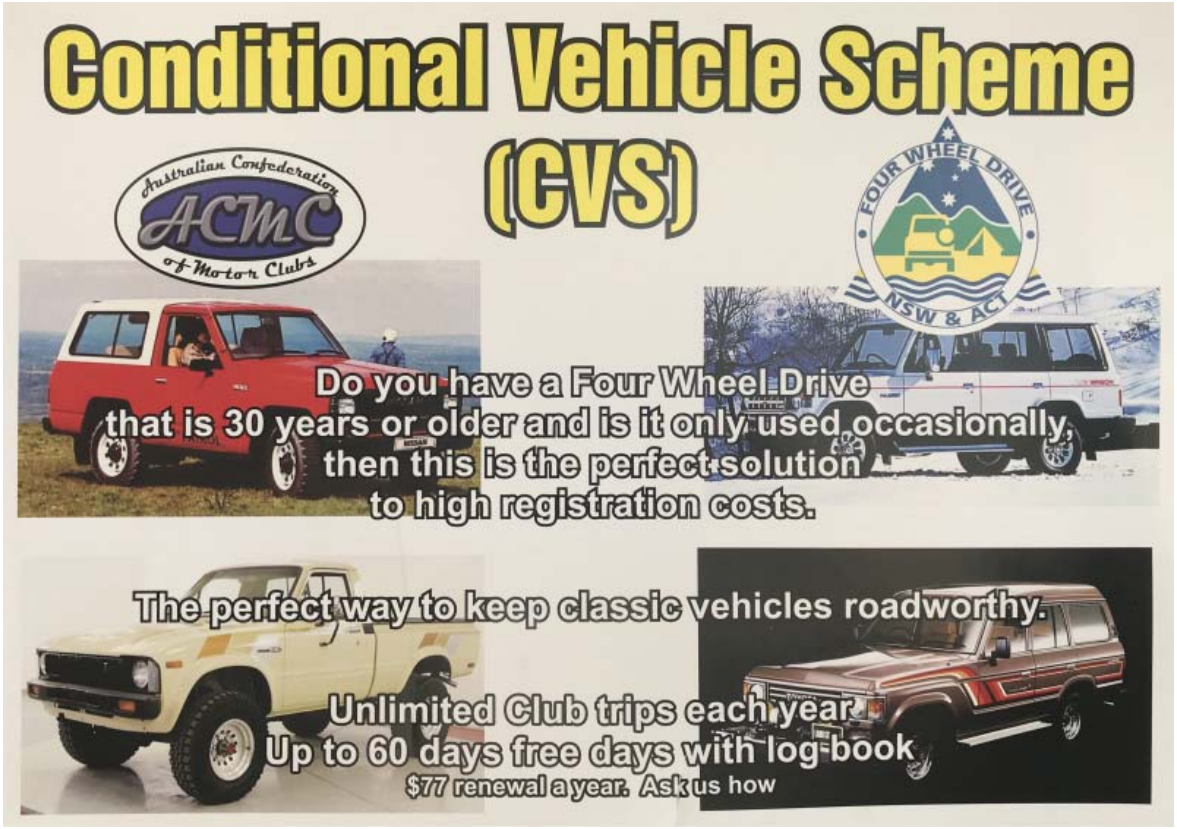
Was a top trip of finding a few new tracks that we've never done before.

Just a gentle reminder !!!

Before leaving on any trip all participants should make sure you have a **-Snatch strap- Solid recovery points on your vechile- Rated Bow Shackles minimum of 3.25 - UHF radio, desirable- Fire Extinguisher.**



Introducing the Tamworth 4wd Club Stubby Cooler.
$10.00 each.
Contact Paul Ellison, or tam4wdclub@hotmail.com


Conditional Vehicle Scheme
(CVS)
Australian Confederation of Motor Clubs
ACMC
FOUR WHEEL DRIVE
NSW & ACT
Do you have a Four Wheel Drive
that is 30 years or older and is it only used occasionally,
then this is the perfect solution
to high registration costs.
The perfect way to keep classic vehicles roadworthy.
Unlimited Club trips each year
Up to 60 days free days with log book
$77 renewal a year. Ask us how

CVS - Classic Vehicle Scheme, allows for modified and engineered 30-year old vehicles on the road for 60 days with a log book. It also allows for unlimited days for Club trips and events.
This is also open to other vehicles including all registerable 2wd cars, VW style beach buggies, modified and engineered lowered cars and trucks that are under 3501kg.
You will have 'CLASSIC' conditional NSW plates.

Absolute total breakdows on costs, based on my own vehicle done in april/may '25.
$79 Blue slip
$60 Annual membership to the Tamworth 4wd Club
$30 Annual NSW 4wd Association processing fee. + envelope stamp.
$55 One-off Classic conditional rego plates - ServicesNSW.
$26 Annual RTA/ServicesNSW admin fee. - ServicesNSW.
$24 Annual CTP through QBE. Services NSW processes this. - ServicesNSW.
$49 Annual pink slip - second year and each year after renewal.

First year : $274.00
Every year after: $189.00 (based on current 2025 pricing)
Most people will actually just call it $50 per year cheap car rego.

Typically a pinkslip, rego and CTP, for a full sized 4wd, is now around $1100.00 This is a substantional saving if you have a vehicle that you only drive 60 times a year.

Interested in knowing more? Send an email to the Tamworth 4wd Club. tam4wd-club@hotmail.com

Advertisment blurb provided to 88.9 / 99.5 FM for their community notice board, in an attempt to get new members.
An enquiry has been sent to 92.9FM to do the same. Awaiting on their reply.

WHO: Tamworth 4wd Club

WHAT: The Tamworth 4wd Club was established over 48 years ago as a family orientated club for like-minded people interested in 4wding, camping and the great outdoors.

WHERE: Monthly meetings for upcoming events and trips are held at the St Johns Ambulance Hall at 72 Napier Street, Tamworth, diagonally opposite Anzac Park on the top side.

WHEN: At the above location, every second Monday of the month at 6:30pm.

COST: $60 family membership per year, which covers membership to the club and to the NSW 4wd Association as well as insurance on trips.

BRIEF INFO:
The Tamworth 4wd Club was established in 1976 for people with an interest in 4wd's, camping and the great outdoors. The club is family orientated and we make life long friendships with like-minded people. Club events can range from social camping weekends, 4wd training days, through to month-long tag-a-long tours and everything in between. The club raises money throughout the year from the various trips and events for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter.
The club is always on the lookout for new members who have similar interests in camping, the outdoors, or just wanting to get more enjoyment out of their 4wd's.

CONTACT PERSON/PHONE #/EMAIL:
Direct message the Tamworth 4wd Club page on Facebook, or Email: tam4wdclub@hotmail.com

Anzac 2025 social weekend at Wallabadah.

The call went out for a social weekend at Wallabadah in early-mid February for a camp oven cookup / cook-off and a billy boiling contest.

14 adults and two kids turned up for Friday lunch/afternoon. Friday night sitting around a small fire was great socialising and drinking the night away. The temperature was great and with the stars being out in full, quite a number of satellites were spotted, pointed to, and discussed. Dave played firebug many a times, and introduced a second fire pit in series with the first. One long log placed across both firepits.

Saturday morning lounged around. 10am nearly everyone went for a boundary drive and up to the lookout. Possibly the first(?) Y62 to go up to the lookout. I can not recall if the previous two on site have done this.

Back at camp before lunch, and unfortunately Leanne left to go home after smashing her knee, and requiring rest and cold ice. Two families had other plans for Saturday night and left around lunch time, thanking them for coming out.After lunch, the fire pit was moved under the shelter in preparation for the oncoming rain, and kicked it up for the camp oven later that night.The undercover fire was also started. By 4 or 5pm we all had settled down to the shelter. Saturday night was a feed of camp-oven beef (Grumpy Dave) and gas-camp-cooker chicken caserole (Col). They were both utterly terribly delicious. Discussions were then had about the Associations cook-off at Mudgee in two-three weekend's time, if either of them were going to enter in.

Decent drizzle really started at around 6pm and continued all through the night, easing up a few times in the morning.

Everyone had left by midday. The tractor having to be pulled out of the shed to pull the Y62 with caravan up the ridge line near the tanks.

Fantastic weekend - hoping that everyone enjoyed themselves. Thankyou to all who came out.

NSW NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE - NPWS Fee Reform Program.

https://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/camping

NPWS is seeking community feedback on proposed improvements to camping fees and bookings in New South Wales national parks and reserves.
As valued volunteers with NPWS, we would like to invite you to read the consultation paper outlining the proposal and have your say. Community feedback is invited until 11.59pm on 25 May 2025.
Key elements of the proposal include:

- introducing consistent state-wide camping fees linked to services, facilities and seasonal demand
- simplifying bookings by removing booking fees and extra-person charges
- more generous refunds to encourage cancellations when plans change.

The proposed changes are designed to deliver fairer camping experiences for visitors and help address persistent campground issues such as 'ghost bookings' (i.e. no-shows).
The proposal also supports increased servicing and maintenance of campgrounds – something campers have told us they want.
Full details of the proposal are outlined in the consultation paper on the Have Your Say webpage. You can also provide your feedback on this page via our online survey or submission form.
We look forward to hearing from you.

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
Director of Visitor Engagement
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
Email: parks.info@environment.nsw.gov.au

Recreational user access to NSW National Parks

Petition	To the President and Members of the Legislative Council, the petitioners of New South Wales state that the NSW Government must identify its position and strategy on the management of NSW National Parks, specifically regarding the provision of ongoing and unrestricted public access to national parks for public recreational use, including but not limited to recreational four-wheel driving, motorcycle riding, mountain biking, camping, hiking, fishing and hunting. The petitioners request that the House conduct a parliamentary inquiry into all track and area closures in all NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service managed land over the last 10 years, including detailed justification for the restriction of public access in each area, and the ensuing economic impacts on local communities and associated industries.
Petition Response	Government response to an ePetition presented by Mr Ruddick on 25 March 2025 entitled "Recreational user access to NSW National Parks"

Tracking of Petitions with 500 or more Signatures	
Petition Category	10,000+
Number Of Citizens	27,230
Presented By	Ruddick, John
Presented Date	Tuesday, 25 March 2025
Minister Responsible	Minister for the Environment
Petition Status	Response Received
Response Due	Tuesday, 29 April 2025
Response Received	Tuesday, 29 April 2025

Registration Number/Qualifier	3119

The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC
Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy,
Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage,
Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

NSW GOVERNMENT

Your ref: D25/013150
Our ref: PD25/381

Mr Steven Reynolds
Clerk of the Parliaments
New South Wales Legislative Council

By email: lc.clerk@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Reynolds

I write in response to the ePetition lodged by the Hon John Ruddick MLC regarding recreational user access to NSW national parks.

I acknowledge the interest of the petitioners in this matter and thank them for bringing forward their concerns. The opportunity for people to petition Parliament is an important part of our democratic systems and the NSW Government welcomes citizens use of these to raise issues that are important to them.

I note that the ePetition, signed by 27,230 NSW citizens, calls on the NSW Government to identify its position and strategy on the management of NSW national parks, specifically regarding the provision of ongoing and unrestricted public access to national parks for public recreational use, including but not limited to recreational four-wheel driving, motorcycle riding, mountain biking, camping, hiking, fishing and hunting.

The petitioners request that the House conduct a Parliamentary inquiry into all track and area closures in all NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) managed land over the last 10 years, including detailed justification for the restriction of public access in each area, and the ensuing economic impacts on local communities and associated industries.

The NSW Government strongly supports recreational access to our incredible network of National Parks and reserves

NSW has an incredible network of National Parks and reserves spanning a diverse array of landscapes including vast coastlines and outback deserts, alpine peaks, waterways, forests and woodlands.

In addition to their conservation, cultural heritage, scenic, and scientific values, National Parks underpin the nature-based tourism sector in NSW, delivering significant economic benefits to the state. National Parks drive over $18 billion in economic activity and support over 74,000 jobs, primarily in the regions (based on 2018 figures). NPWS works closely with Destination NSW to promote visits to regional areas. In 2022, close to 70 per cent of visitors reported that visiting a national park was their only or main reason for travel.

Visitors to our parks participate in a wide range of recreational activities including walking, cycling, horse riding, mountain biking, 4WD touring, fishing, canoeing, adventure sports, boating, snow sports and more.

The NSW Government also recognises the significant socioeconomic benefits that nature-based recreation provides, including improved health, productivity and mental health outcomes.

Parks support a wide variety of recreational activities

Apart from hunting, all the recreational activities listed in the ePetition are regularly undertaken in national parks.

Vehicle access
There are over 10,000 kilometres of public roads and trails in NSW national parks and reserves that are accessible to private motor vehicles, including motorcycles and 4WD vehicles. In 2022,1.6 million visits to parks included activities such as car or bike touring, 4WD, and trail bike riding.

Cycling
Cycling, including mountain biking, is one of the most popular activities in national parks. Public roads, park management trails and tracks provide extensive access for cyclists. Purpose-built mountain biking tracks and facilities are available in many locations. The NPWS Cycling Policy and Cycling Strategy outlines clear support and priorities for providing cycling opportunities in parks. In 2022, over two million visits to parks included cycling and mountain biking as an activity.

Camping
Camping opportunities are available in many national parks, with 365 campgrounds available. Campgrounds and accommodation options range from basic to high levels of serviced facilities, catering for all preferences and budgets.

Walking
There are 3,099 kilometres of walking tracks/specified use tracks in NSW national parks. Over 36 million visits to national parks in 2022 included walking as an activity.

Fishing
Recreational fishing is permitted in most national parks and reserves. The NPWS visitor website promotes information about some of the best fishing locations in NSW national parks. NPWS provides a range of facilities to support recreational fishing, including boat ramps, jetties and fish cleaning tables. In 2022 around 1.8 million visits to national parks included fishing as an activity.

The popularity of our national parks continues to grow, and the NSW Government is delivering significant investment

NSW national parks are more popular than ever before – attracting 50 to 60 million visits every year, which has grown by nearly 50% over the last decade. Preliminary data from 2024–25 indicates that the strong growth trend in visitation will soon take visitor numbers beyond pre-COVID levels.

NPWS manages over $2.8 billion of visitor infrastructure to facilitate this access and recreation. The meet growing visitor demand, the NSW Government is delivering significant investment in new and upgraded infrastructure. This includes:

- Establishing a network of 13 Great Walks to deliver world-class multi-day walking experiences in some of the State's most spectacular landscapes (eight are operating, with five in development).
- Over 750 kilometres of new and upgraded walking and cycling tracks.
- The delivery of more than 60 new or improved picnic and visitor areas and more than 35 campground upgrades.

In this Financial Year alone, the NSW Government is investing over $146 million in new visitor experiences and the renewal of existing tracks, trails, camping areas and other visitor facilities.

Visitor infrastructure planning is guided by bi-annual visitor surveys which help NPWS understand visitor use, priorities and expectations.

Park closures are largely routine and a normal part of park management

Effectively managing the large network of reserves requires NPWS to undertake a variety of management activities in accordance with legislative requirements. Area closures are a routine part of park management and occur in accordance with legislation, park plans of management and emergency provisions where required.

Most closures are small scale, targeted and short term, to allow for essential activities such as track and trail maintenance, bushfire hazard reduction, feral animal control, and visitor facility upgrades to be safely undertaken. That can include repair works following storms and other emergency events.

In limited instances, longer term or permanent closures in some locations may be necessary to address public safety and environmental risks. Public notification is provided for all closures.

With the exception of emergency events, and wherever practicable, community and stakeholder consultation occurs before significant park closure proposals are progressed.

All management of National parks is done in accordance with legislative requirements

NPWS manage national parks and other reserves under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) to conserve biodiversity and other features of natural significance, protect and conserve items and places of historic and Aboriginal cultural heritage and to provide appropriate recreational opportunities consistent with the objects of the NPW Act and the management principles for each reserve category.

The arrangements for recreational use and public access in national parks are set out in statutory park plans of management, prepared in accordance with the NPW Act. These plans establish the public and park management access arrangements for each park, balancing conservation values, recreational opportunities, community views and resource priorities. Plans of management are prepared in consultation with key stakeholders, including recreational groups and statutory advisory bodies, and are publicly exhibited for comment.

NPWS also has published policies for various recreational activities that guide visitor access and use, including policies for vehicle access, cycling, and visitor accommodation.

Statutory advisory bodies are established under Part 3 of the NPW Act to provide independent and expert advice to the Minister and Secretary on national park management matters, including with respect to recreational user access and park plans of management. These include the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council and eight NPWS regional advisory committees.

Membership of the advisory bodies includes people with skills, experience and expertise in local government, rural and regional development, planning, science, environmental education, bushfire management, natural and cultural heritage conservation, and recreation and community use of reserves.

Current members are listed on the department's website at www.environment.nsw.gov.au/about-us/who-we-are/national-parks-and-wildlife-advisory-council and www.environment.nsw.gov.au/about-us/who-we-are/advisory-committees/regional-advisory-committees#regional-advisory-committee-members.

Recreational hunting is not permitted but NPWS does partner with volunteers for feral animal control

Recreational hunting is not permitted in national parks and other lands reserved under the NPW Act due to the unacceptable risk to park visitors and the impacts on native plants and animals. Limited recreational hunting is allowed in some flora reserves established under the *Forestry Act 2016*, which NPWS manages.

However, NPWS staff do work alongside highly skilled volunteers to implement shooting programs to manage feral animals in parks under the Supplementary Pest Control Program. That includes volunteers from the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia.

An inquiry is not supported at this time

As noted above, the vast majority of closures are undertaken for essential park management activities, such as trail maintenance and bush fire hazard reduction, and are short-term and localised.

The Government's preference is to instead continue to engage and work directly with local communities and stakeholders. This is a more efficient way to find locally-based solutions and alternatives that are compatible with the protection of conservation values and visitor safety and ensure the ongoing enjoyment of our National Parks.

Sincerely

Penny Sharpe MLC
Minister for Climate Change, Minister for Energy,
Minister for the Environment, Minister for Heritage
29/4/25

Received at 10.04 am a
Tuesday 29th April 2025

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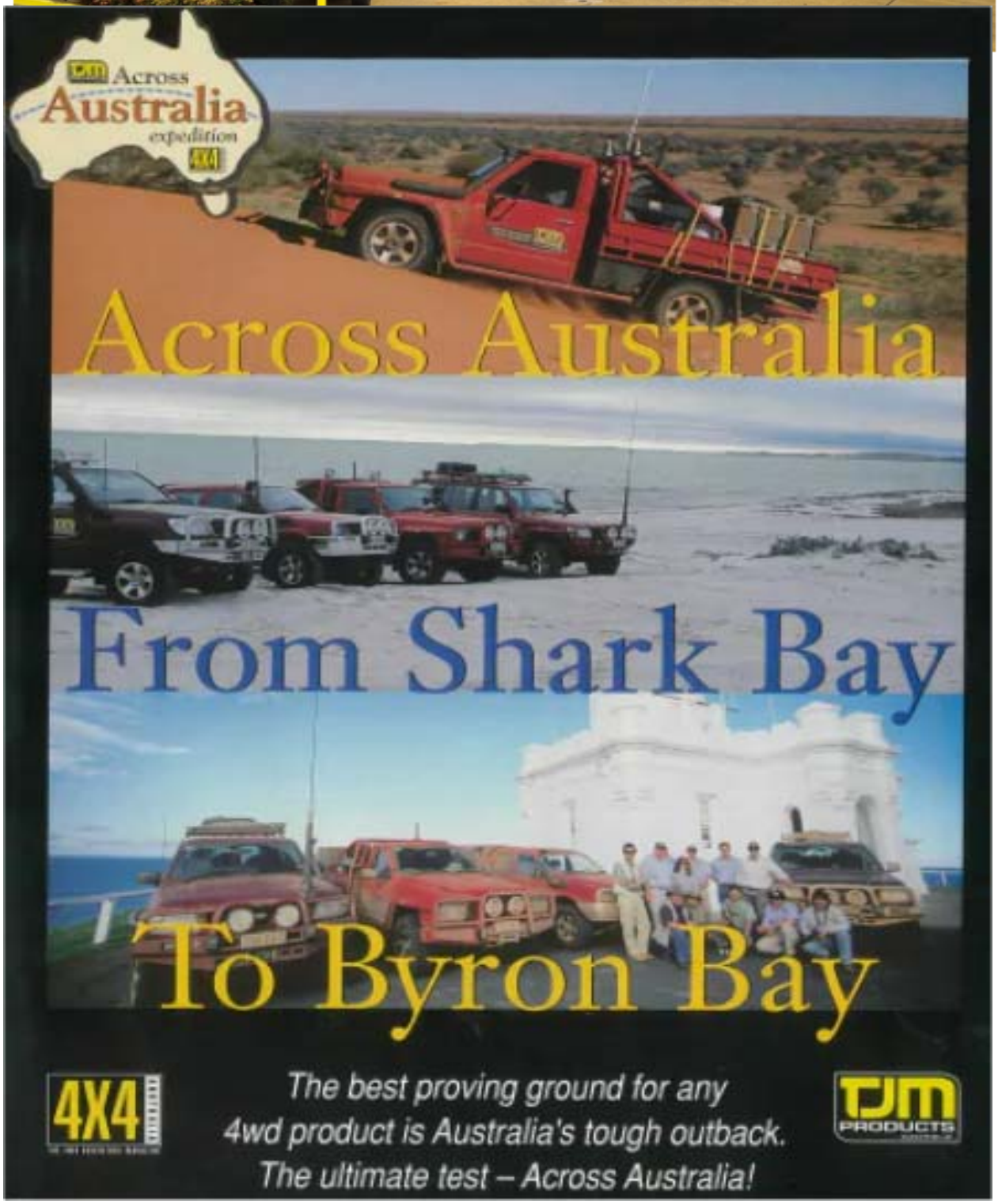
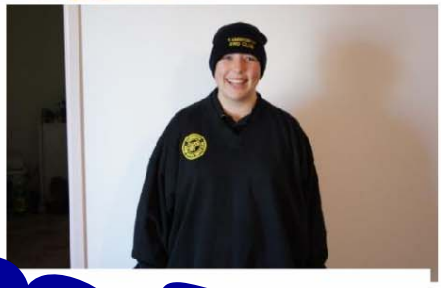


Trip Leader Responsibilities

- The trip leader is responsible for ensuring that the trip is conducted in a safe and responsible manner.
- All members who reserve a place in your trip should be recorded, their phone number and an emergency contact number taken. This will allow you to advise them if the conditions change or to contact Family in the event of n emergency.
- A reconnaissance trip and good maps and/or knowledge of the area are required to conduct a safe trip.
- Any permission for access needs to be obtained beforehand.
- It is your responsibility to decide if the weather conditions have altered the trip grading, as you may need to advise the participants before the trip.
- At the start point, introduce yourself, check-in all participants, collect the donation for Westpac Helicopter, check the correct equipment if necessary, and explain the nature details of the trip to all. Assign a main backup UHF channel at this point.
- Ask two older members to act as control vehicles. A “Rear Marker” and “Centre Marker” are usually best to help guide the convoy safely.
- Proceed at a legal pace that suits all participants, and keep in touch with your designated control vehicles to judge the convoy’s progress.
- It is your responsibility to assess the track conditions, and guide the group throughout the trip to ensure a safe and enjoyable outing.
- At the conclusion of the trip, check-off all participants and retrieve any loan equipment if necessary.
- Take donation money to next meeting and hand to treasurer.

Club Merchandise



See Leanne for new pricing

- $30 - [illegible]
- $40 - Hoodies
- [illegible] - Caps
- [illegible]

- $[illegible]
- $30 - Jumpers
- [illegible] - Hoodies
- If [illegible] merchandise [illegible]eton

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

Account Name : Tamworth 4WD Club

B.S.B.: 032-621

Account Number: 895405

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU PUT YOUR NAME AS THE REFENCE SO WE KNOW WHO THE MONEY IS FOR

MEMBERSHIP FORMS

All members will need to complete a membership form when paying their annual membership fees.

This helps to keep records updated on current members and for insurance purposes.

NEW FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT MEETINGS OR CONTACT THE SECRETARY

Email: tam4wdclub@hotmail.com
: dave.maunder@gmail.com
Phone (Dave) : 0429111017
(Dave) : 0429656363
(Leanne) : 0408605343

Family membership: $60/year

Tamworth 4wd Club Membership Renewal/Confirmation of Details

Surname: .....

First Name: ..... DOB: .....

Partner's Name: .... DOB: .....

Child's Name: ..... DOB: .....

Child's Name: ..... DOB: .....

Child's Name: .... DOB: .....

Residential Address:

.....

.....

Postal Address: .....

Which would you prefer published in the newsletter? Residential/Postal

Email Address: .....

Note:

Club Newsletters will be **emailed** to members wherever possible. If you do not want to have the newsletter emailed to you and you would prefer it by mail, please tick the box below.

☐ I wish to receive the newsletter by ordinary mail and not by email.

Phone Number: Home: ..... **Work:** .....

Mobile/s: .....

Vehicle Details: Make: .....

Model: .....

Year: ..... Registration: .....

Name of Relative/friend in case of emergency: .....

Emergency contact phone number: .....

Signature of Member: ..... Date: .....

Signature of Partner: ..... Date: .....

Please bring completed form along to the next club meeting and hand it to the secretary or send to

XXXX
PO Box 3345
West Tamworth
NSW 2340
XXXX

BANK DETAILS

Tamworth 4WD Club
BSB 032-621
Account Number 895405

Privacy Statement and Update of Member Details

Under the Commonwealth Privacy Act 2001, it is an offence to publish or distribute the personal information of any member of the Tamworth 4WD Club Inc. without the written permission of the member. Similarly, we are not permitted to publish any photographs of club member's vehicles or their families when on club trips without written permission. In order to organise club trips and events, the trip leader or event organiser needs to contact club members and we need to be able to pass your details to fellow club members. Also, we like to include trip and social reports, including photos, and promote the club at sponsor's promotion days and 4WD shows.

In order to comply with the Privacy Act and keep our records accurate, every club member needs to complete the following form and update their details:

Please answer the sections below and return ASAP:

Section 1

Please tick the statement with which you agree

☐ I/We hereby **give permission** for the Tamworth 4WD Club to include my personal details (name, address & phone? In the members list which is published each month in the newsletter and understand that copies of the newsletter are provided to club sponsors and other 4WD clubs. Or

☐ I/We **do not give permission** for the Tamworth 4WD Club to include my personal detail (name, address & phone? In the members list which is published each month in the newsletter and understand that copies of the newsletter are provided to club sponsors and other 4WD clubs.

Section 2

Please tick the statement with which you agree

☐ I/We hereby **give permission** for the Tamworth 4WD Club to publish photographs of my vehicle and family in the newsletter, website and at promotional events and understand that copies of the newsletter are provided to Club sponsors and other 4WD clubs.

Or

☐ I/We hereby **do not give permission** for the Tamworth 4WD Club to publish photographs of my vehicle and family in the newsletter, website and at promotional events and understand that copies of the newsletter are provided to Club sponsors and other 4WD clubs

Names of Members:

_____

Member's Signatures:

_____

MEMBERS CONDUCT

If the conduct of any member shall, in the opinion of the Committee, be contrary to the welfare or interest of the Club, the member may be called upon to justify and explain such conduct to a special meeting of the Committee and, if after consideration at such meeting, a majority present is of the opinion that the conduct of such member is as charged, the Committee may caution, suspend or expel such member. Any decision shall be conveyed to the member in writing by the Secretary. If the member so cautioned, suspended or expelled by the Committee wishes they may appeal in writing to the Club and request a Special General Meeting of the Club to discuss such appeal. The Special General Meeting so called my reverse of alter the Committee's decision on a two thirds majority of the members resent at such meeting. Such decision of the Special General Meeting of the Club shall be final.

History of the Tamworth 4WD Club

Tamworth Recreational 4WD Club was formed in 1976 by local Four Wheel Drive owners. It is a family orientated club and caters for family participation in recreational four wheel drive touring and camping trips into bushland areas of the great natural beauty and attraction.

Club trips can be one day or weekend drives into the state forests and national parks of the local area. Trips of longer duration to various parts of Australia (eg Simpson Desert, Fraser Island, Cape York, Kakadu just for ideas) are planned annually and in advanced. The choice of trip you take is entirely yours, from easy scenic trips to beautiful areas of near inaccessible terrain.

Other clubs activities include social outings, bush camping, bush walking, fishing, driver training days, Xmas in July, demonstrations and inter club activities.

The Objectives of the Club

- To promote safety, friendship and courtesy, both ON and OFF the road, through training, community activities, club and family touring and camping activities
- To promote and encourage family social activities and organise club tours
- To conduct meetings and classes whereby members may obtain knowledge enabling them to become proficient in handling, navigation, care and maintenance of their vehicle
- And in particular to encourage and foster the activity of recreational four wheel driving and endeavor to establish same in the eyes of various Government Departments etc (in particular the National Parks and Wildlife Service, State Forest of N.S.W) as a recognised and responsible family past time.
- To actively encourage the conservation of Australia's natural environment

Current Financial Members
Rick & Katrina Burton
Jodie Thompson
Shaun Morrison
Paul Ellison & Melinda Bridge
Chrissy & Dave Maunder
Richard Mariner
Jocelyn Spicer
Adrian Altona
Dave & Karma Walters
Aaron Walters & Nicole Ward
Sam Walters & Izzy Cleaver
Terry & Helen Collins
Tim Patterson & family.

Club Life Members
Graeme Hodge
Bob Tallon
Leanne & Col Middleton

Sponsors
ARB Tamworth.
TJM Tamworth.

FOUR WHEEL DRIVING!!

DO IT THE RIGHT WAY

JOIN A 4WD CLUB

TAMWORTH 4WD CLUB